



CHAPTER 6 - CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH THE PUBLIC

The Service used a highly participatory planning process to develop the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge CCP and associated EA. Throughout the planning process, the Service initiated outreach to diverse stakeholders, including representatives from other Federal and state agencies, county and township governments, local drainage districts, special interest groups such as birders, hunters, and anglers, industry and non-profit organizations, landowners living adjacent to the Refuge and within the Yellow River area, Refuge visitors, and Service employees.

Information about the CCP was provided to stakeholders and the general public through news releases, presentations, interviews, informational letters, newsletters, public meetings, briefings, and the Internet. Questionnaires, focus groups, public meetings, and one-on-one discussions were used to gather input from Refuge visitors, neighbors, and other stakeholders (Appendix III). A geographic information system was developed to aid in the analysis and transfer of information.

The following table is a summary of opportunities for public involvement in the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Planning (CCP) process. This summary covers the majority of formal outreach efforts by the Service and the Refuge. A number of informal outreach efforts, particularly in the Juneau and Wood County area, occurred throughout the CCP process and are not documented here. These efforts include contacts with Refuge visitors (ie. approximately 5,000 Refuge hunters responded to a questionnaire), informing local service organizations and county boards at regularly scheduled meetings, and informing/updating other agencies at meetings scheduled for purposes other than to discuss the Refuge CCP.

Date	Action or Event	Message
January, 1997	Juneau/Adams County interagency meeting	Informed local, state, and federal resource management personnel about the upcoming Refuge planning process
February, 1997	Refuge staff met with representatives of the Wisconsin Bowhunters Association, the Wisconsin Muzzleloaders Association, and the Wisconsin Traditional Archers Association, at their request	Discussed the future of special hunts and game management on the Refuge
March, 1997	Press release	Happy birthday Necedah Refuge and call for input into CCP
March, 1997	Letter to the editor - Juneau County Star Times	Refuge asks for help planning the future of the Refuge



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Date	Action or Event	Message
April, 1997	Press release	Publicizing National Wildlife Week and opportunities to comment on the CCP
April, 1997	National Wildlife Week Open House	Request public input into Refuge and Yellow River planning efforts
April, 1997	Press release	Publicize International Migratory Bird Day events and requesting input into the Refuges CCP
May 1997	Refuge staff meet with local drainage district personnel at Refuge	Scoping of issues/opportunity for input into CCP
May, 1997	International Migratory Bird Day Open House	Request public input into the Refuge CCP and Yellow River planning efforts
June, 1997	Mailing to property owners withing a 4-county area, plus over 90 groups with an interest in conservation issues (to approx. 4,200 people and groups)	The Refuge wants your input on the future of Refuge management.
June 1997	Refuge public scoping meetings/open houses (2)	CCP and CCP process. Public input is important
June, 1997	Press coverage - Juneau County Star Times	Refuge seeks citizen input
July, 1997	Interview - Tomah Tribune	CCP process
July, 1997	Interview - WKTY AM 580 (La Crosse)	CCP process
October, 1997	Press release	National Wildlife Refuge Week Open House and CCP input opportunity
October, 1997	National Wildlife Refuge Week Open House	Request public input into Refuge and Yellow River planning efforts



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Date	Action or Event	Message
January, 1998	Juneau/Adams County interagency meeting	Informed local, state, and federal resource management personnel about the ongoing Refuge CCP planning process
June, 1998	Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership (CWBP) meeting	First proposal to adopt the Yellow River as a CWBP project; the Yellow River project was subsequently adopted, and the project was discussed quarterly at meetings thereafter
September, 1998	Release of the first draft CCP with cover letter requesting and outlining ways to comment	
September, 1998	Press coverage - Tomah Monitor-Herald	Waterfowl hunters criticize Refuge conservation plan and deadline for written comments
September, 1998	Letter to the editor - Tomah Monitor-Herald	Response to Tomah Monitor-Herald press coverage
January, 1999	Juneau/Adams County interagency meeting	Informed local, state, and federal resource management personnel about the ongoing Refuge planning process
April, 1999	Newsletter to 800+ Refuge mailing list	Informed public of CCP availability - postage-paid request for a copy of the CCP was included
April, 1999	National Wildlife Week Open House	Yellow River slide show about area and project
July, 1999	Newsletter to 800+ Refuge mailing list and at local outlets such as libraries and local businesses	CCP update



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Date	Action or Event	Message
August, 1999	Contact letter to Yellow River landowners	Informing landowners about the Yellow River Focus Area project and resource management services offered by the Refuge
October, 1999	Press release and newsletter to 800+ refuge mailing list and at local outlets such as libraries and local businesses	Requesting historic pictures of the Yellow River area for the Yellow River Focus Area project
December, 1999	Press coverage - Juneau County Star Times	Yellow River Focus Area project creates new partnerships
January, 2000	Newsletter to 800+ Refuge mailing list and at local outlets such as libraries and local businesses	CCP update
March, 2000	Newsletter to 800+ Refuge mailing list and at local outlets such as libraries and local businesses	Advertising Yellow River landowner meetings
March, 2000	Refuge-hosted Yellow River landowner forum	Discussion about landowner's perspective on the issues and information needs in the Yellow River
March, 2000	Letter to Yellow River landowners	Summarizing results of first landowner forum and written assurance that participation with the Service in the Yellow River is voluntary and that the Service will not use eminent domain
April, 2000	Refuge-hosted Yellow River landowner forum	Tally of responses collected at last meeting, plus "experts" that could address landowners's questions from last meeting
July, 2000	Release of revised CCP draft	

**Consultation and Coordination with the Public**

Date	Action or Event	Message
August, 2000	Mailing to property owners within a 4-county area, plus over 90 groups with an interest in conservation issues (to approx. 4,200 people and groups)	The Refuge wants your input on the final draft CCP and what comes after the plan's approval
August, 2000	Press release	Refuge invites comments on revised plan
September, 2000	Press release	Draft plan release and publicizing two public meetings
September, 2000	Two public meetings	Inviting public comments and answering questions about the draft CCP
February, 2001	Press release	Midwest private landowners to receive grants for conservation actions (Yellow River landowners were recipients of these grants)
March, 2001	Juneau/Adams County interagency meeting	Informed local, state, and federal resource management personnel about the ongoing Refuge planning process
March, 2001	Letter to the editor - Juneau County Star Times	Necedah NWR staff explain Town of Necedah referendum regarding the Yellow River Focus Area
March, 2001	Press coverage - Juneau County Star Times	Yellow River referendum to go before Town of Necedah voters; two informational meetings scheduled at the Necedah Town Hall
March, 2001	Four public meetings on Yellow River Focus Area; two hosted by the Town of Necedah, two hosted by the Refuge	Discussion and questions about the Yellow River Focus Area

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Date	Action or Event	Message
April, 2001	Two public meetings - Armenia Town Hall and Finley Town Hall	Discussion and questions about the Yellow River Focus Area
June, 2001	Letter to Yellow River landowners	Reiterating the scope of the Yellow River Focus Area project and written assurance that participation in the project is voluntary and that the Service will not use eminent domain